

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY TEHRAN NIACT IMMEDIATE

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FOR PRECHT FROM NAAS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MILI, IR, US

SUBJECT: FORCE STRUCTURE STATISTICS ON IRANIAN SERVICES

1. WE HAVE HAD OPPORTUNITY TO READ SFRC SUB-COMMITTEE DRAFT
(MANTELL, KEMP AND BRYEN) AND EXPECT HAVE FURTHER TALKS
JULY 19. INCLUDED IN REPORT ARE VERY DETAILED TABLES OF
WEAPONS SYSTEMS, DELIVERY DATES, COSTS, ETC., AS WELL AS
FUTURE EXPANSION PLANS OF IRANIAN SERVICES THROUGH EARLY
1980S.

2. WHEN QUERIED ON SOURCES OF THIS DATA, THEY STATED THAT
ARMISH/MAAG PROVIDED MUCH OF THE MATERIAL IN UNCLASSIFIED
FORM AND THAT IT WAS EXPLICITLY UNDERSTOOD THAT MATERIAL
WOULD BE PUBLISHED. WE WOULD APPRECIATE YOUR REVIEWING
WITH ARMISH/MAAG MATERIALS PROVIDED SUB-COMMITTEE STAFF
TO DETERMINE WHETHER PUBLICATION IN UNCLASSIFIED SFRC REPORT
IS LIKELY TO CAUSE SERIOUS FRICITION WITH GOI IN VIEW OF THEIR
FREQUENT COMPLAINTS THAT SUCH MATTERS SHOULD BE CONSIDERED
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HAD OF HOW THIS MATERIAL WOULD BE TREATED BY SUB-COMMITTEE.

3. AS YOU KNOW, WE HAVE BEEN ATTEMPTING, OUT OF REGARD FOR GOI SENSITIVITIES, TO KEEP DATA ON FMS PURCHASES CLASSIFIED FOR ABOUT 3 YEARS. THERE HAVE BEEN, HOWEVER, A NUMBER OF SLIPS BACK HERE AND A VERY CONSIDERABLE AMOUNT OF MATERIAL ON IRANIAN PROGRAM HAS BEEN RELEASED. OUR POSITION AS WELL IS UNDER INCREASING PRESSURE BECAUSE OF FOI REQUESTS AND WE WILL BE SHORTLY REVIEWING THIS POLICY. CLEARLY, IT WOULD SIMPLIFY GREATLY OUR HANDLING OF FOI CASES, AS WELL AS REPORTS TO CONGRESS, IF WE DECLASSIFIED ALL IRANIAN FMS DATA. KISSINGER

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